The First Baptist Church

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The First Baptist Church

IN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE
NORTH CAROLINA

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JANUARY, 1937

A HANDBOOK
OF THE CHURCH, ITS PEOPLE
AND WORK

Cp
C477

Dedication

TO THE FAITHFUL TEACHERS
OF OUR BIBLE SCHOOL THIS
BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED

Lilly
NcG
NcU

3 LUTHER LITTLE

THIS BOOK

IN NO spirit of cheap brag do we send forth this book. Our desire is that the public have some little glimpse of our church and its great service to humanity. In picture and type we are presenting a panorama of one of the greatest pieces of work being done by any church in the country. If we have lacked the publicity that comes to some churches, and which we now feel we have a right to claim, it is because we have been so busy in serving and making history that we have not had time to turn aside to present our activities. Even now we are unable to fully portray one-half of the facts. As you turn these pages will you not remember that the best service in the spiritual realm cannot be photographed or typed. We further request that all who read this story will breathe a prayer for the members, workers, and for him who preaches and lovingly ministers to all without respect to persons.

A SUNDAY'S CONGREGATION

PULPIT, ORGAN, AND CHOIR LOFT

CHURCH AUDITORIUM
From the Pulpit

ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR YEARS LOOK DOWN UPON US

THE First Baptist Church of Charlotte was organized in 1832, and has had a continuous existence to this present time. Of course during that period there have been both happy and trying experiences. The first pastor was Rev. John Rooker. As this is not intended to be an accurate history we cannot go into details or give all the pastors with their terms of office. However, from the days of the first pastor to the present one we find the names of—John Rooker, Joseph Pritchard, James M. Thomas, R. B. Jones, R. H. Griffith, J. B. Boone, Theodore Whitfield, O. F. Gregory, A. G. McManaway, T. H. Pritchard, A. C. Barron, H. H. Hulton, W. M. Vines, and Luther Little.

The calling of this roll will show that many of God's able and honored ministers have served this congregation through the last one hundred and four years. Serving along with these good ministers have been the noble officers and members—both men and women, who have faithfully given their money and time as a worthy contribution by which the church has been brought to its present powerful organization. Many of these good men and women went through the dark days of the war between the states. Even since that time there have been other barriers in the way of the church's program. Time was when Baptists were a despised sect in these parts, but the loyal workers never gave up. We now place a crown upon their heads whether they be in the church triumphant, or the church militant. Our Heavenly Father likewise places his approval upon them.

THE CHURCH CHOIR

UNAVOIDABLE ABSENTEES

Mrs. Rufus Goans
Mrs. Roy L. Parnell
Miss Sarah Lee Wright
Mrs. H. E. Grant
Miss Lila Stallings
Miss Gladys Mooney
Miss Ruby Padgett
Miss Elizabeth Small
Miss Maxine Cunningham
F. W. Foard
J. A. Lewis

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

MALE CHORUS

UNAVOIDABLE ABSENTEES

J. T. Hasty, Jr.
Frank Deese
Herman Kiser

THE DEACONS

UNAVOIDABLE ABSENTEES

H. M. DaVega	J. C. Fletcher
P. F. Dawson	W. V. Howard
J. B. Efird	C. C. Marshall
P. H. Efird	W. S. Rankin

THE CHURCH'S UNIQUE MINISTRY

THE ministry of the First Baptist Church can in a sense be called unique. Its gospel is orthodox and fundamental. No strange or freakish strains are to be found in the messages which it delivers to this world. Our Baptist fathers would feel at home in its atmosphere.

On the other hand, the most modern and up-to-date methods are used in making application of this gospel. Nothing known to the best usages is over-looked in making the worship attractive and ornate. After all, perhaps the most attractive feature is the evident good and wholesome spirit which pervades the entire membership. One literally comes under the spell of devotion when he places himself along with the throngs who worship within its borders.

This ministry is given to all alike —whether rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old. Truly, any and all will find here a church home. Within our portals one will find many activities, yet all the different groups are a part of the general whole. Theoretically, and, we hope, practically, the church is one and is made up of all its parts. The church greatly discourages any of its many groups becoming self-centered or interested alone in a partial program.

The Bible school, with an enrollment of two thousand, offers classes and opportunities for people of all ages to study the Word of God. Pupils are taken at birth and are passed on through the respective grades, and are never given up until they register in the great school of heaven. No Bible school enjoys a more loyal, loving, and co-operative set of officers and workers than those found in our teaching department. The pastor is indeed the under-shepherd in the school, as he is in the entire church life.

In the women's work, whether for local interests, or in the mission field, the church finds it is in a fortunate situation. All through the years this gracious organization has done its part in making our splendid achievements possible.

The young people give an added and needed touch. In fact the development of young Christians has been one of our glories. Wherever you may travel, in this section, you will find in nearly every Baptist church some fine worker who has been trained in one of our groups. Though this congregation has stood through so many years, it is a noted fact that even now it is a young people's church.

A close study of our activities will show that all are welcome and on an equal plane in the church life. There are no classes and castes with us. The most sacrificial person is the most honored. Our goal is to be like Christ in simple Christian character and living. The self-righteous or "holier - than - thou" spirit is discouraged. We open our doors to the worst sinner as we do to the ripest saint. The greater the sinner the more he needs the pure gospel of the Son of God for his or her salvation. No wonder, then, with this kind of spirit, the First Baptist Church is popular and her auditorium always filled with those who seek the blessings of God and the benediction of heaven.

Come one, come all, without money and without price. You are welcome.

"THE GOOD SHEPHERD"
Painting by Olson

SECOND FLOOR FOYER

PASTOR'S STUDY

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

WEDDING HALL

OUR BUILDING

THE plot of ground upon which the buildings stand is of such a nature that the physical equipment does not appear to the best advantage to the passing public. There is no better auditorium in all this section of the country than the one in which we worship. It is compact and commodious, with perfect acoustics and beautiful architecture. The gorgeous memorial windows, the wonderful picture of Christ—"The Good Shepherd" by Olson, the graceful and artistic arrangement of the organ pipes, and other dignified ornaments quickly impress anyone with the stately beauty of the auditorium. The present main church edifice was erected in 1908 under the pastorate of H. H. Hulton.

As one passes back and crosses a large foyer he will enter a four-story educational building which cannot be seen from the front street. On the first floor are located the assembly rooms of the Primary and Junior departments with their various class rooms adjacent. On this same floor will be found the Beginner department, the Cradle Roll class, and the nursery. Likewise, the kitchen and dining room will be found here.

Coming up to the second floor one will find located the attractive and main educational auditorium, which is tastily furnished, with many class rooms attached, used by the Adult department.

The third floor is occupied by the executive offices, pastor's study, and a number of class rooms surrounding. In this region is located the Wedding Hall where hundreds of couples have been married, and it fills a real needed place in the life of our people and the community.

Going on upward to the fourth floor one is greeted by a large and inviting auditorium in which the Intermediate department gathers for its general meetings. Likewise, the sufficient number of well appointed

class rooms on this floor add joy and efficiency to both teachers and pupils.

The Young People's department assembles in the church auditorium for its general meeting, and their class rooms are located in various places in the educational building. In fact, throughout this entire building, there are fully one hundred and ten available separate rooms. The twenty rest rooms create a feature of comfort, and equip this building ideally for its regular work and other public functions. Any and all of these floors and rooms can be easily and readily reached by means of modern elevator service. The educational plant was built in 1923 under the present pastor.

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

UPPER
NURSERY

LOWER
CRADLE ROLL CLASS

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM
From the Platform

ADULT DEPARTMENT

UPPER
BEGINNER DEPARTMENT

LOWER
PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

FIRST PHILATHEA CLASS
As It Furnished the 1936 Thanksgiving Program
For the Adult Department

THREE B PHILATHEA CLASS
As It Furnished the 1936 Christmas Program
For the Adult Department

UPPER
JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

LOWER
INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF THE MICROPHONE

OUR church is the pioneer in sending song, prayer, and sermon into radio land. For fifteen unbroken years the dreary, weary, and weak have found an avenue through which they can hear the Voice and Word of God.

Including repetitions, fully fifty million people have heard the sweetest story ever told. To that silent, home-ridden population the Bible has been taught, the words of eternal life have been given, reviving hope for time and eternity for the sick and discouraged. The shut-ins and aged have been made to see the light that shines afar even beyond the glow of life's setting sun.

If you see a singular brightness encircling the dome of our building it might be God's rainbow of remembrance to you and others for the good that has been done through the radio's Romance of Religion.

NINETEEN WONDERFUL YEARS

(January 1, 1918—January 1, 1937)

During Present Pastorate

Regular Sunday Sermons	1,574	
Preached in three Local Revivals	70	
Preached in Outside Revivals	610	
Commencement Sermons	81	
Total Sermons		2,335
Speeches and Addresses		1,115
Prayer Meeting Talks		965
Visits and Calls		12,970
Attended Class Meetings, etc.		1,288
Attended Sunday School		980
In Contact with B. T. U.		920
Weddings		563
Funerals		818
Members Received for Baptism		1,599
Members Received by Letter, etc.		5,727
Books written and published		2
Books ready for publication		2
Money raised for Missions		$202,327.93
Money raised for Orphanage		65,301.23
Money raised for Current Expense		605,360.49
Total for Outside Objects		$267,629.16
Total for Local Work		605,360.49
Grand Total		$872,989.65

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

PROPOSED FIVE YEAR PROGRAM

1. At least one revival each year.
2. A net gain of 1,000 in church membership.
3. Pay off at least one-half of the church bonded indebtedness either through sinking fund, special collection, or both. Endeavor to obtain 500 persons who will agree to tithe their income.
4. New pipe organ.
5. New carpet for church.
6. Average attendance of 1,500 in the Bible school.
7. Average attendance of 300 in the Baptist Training Union.
8. An enlarged organization for local and outside work among the women.
9. During the next five years the members and friends of the church are requested to consider putting the church in their wills. A small part of your estate left as a legacy would hurt no one, and at the same time enable the giver to carry on when he can no longer be present, and thus cast back a beautiful brightness to those who are left behind.
10. Deepen the spiritual life of the members and use every means to promote soul enlargement and the evangelistic spirit and work.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

UNAVOIDABLE ABSENTEES

Mrs. P. H. Efird
Mrs. E. T. McCorkle
Mrs. C. E. Motte

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM
From the Rear

Staff

Pastor	Dr. Luther Little
Choir Director and Assistant	Mr. E. E. Rutledge
Organist	Mrs. E. E. Rutledge
Church Secretary	Miss Ree Sheets
Financial Secretary	Miss Louise Murphy

Deacons

OFFICERS

Marshall E. Lake, *Chairman*
W. J. Smith, *Vice-Chairman*
W. R. Caudell, *Secretary*
J. C. Fletcher, *Assistant Secretary*

TERMS OF OFFICE

Life Term: J. A. Yarbrough

Term Ending December 31, 1937:

W. S. Rankin
W. J. Smith
H. F. Darsey
M. E. Lake
W. A. Crandall
A. L. Faul
R. M. Ross
G. B. Cabaniss

Term Ending December 31, 1939:

J. B. Efird
P. F. Dawson
J. C. Fletcher
W. R. Boyd
E. W. Haight
J. Q. Myers
P. H. Efird
Morgan Gilreath
W. D. Sloan
E. C. Lovell
P. S. Vann

Term Ending December 31, 1940 (Mid-term Group):

W. M. Scruggs
W. R. Caudell
Frank E. Dawson
Carl McCraw
H. M. DaVega
J. C. Shepherd
T. P. Williamson
J. H. Bridges
A. F. Mosteller
Geo. Ledbetter

Term Ending December 31, 1941:

S. D. Bagwell
G. T. Carswell
C. A. Duckworth
W. V. Howard
C. C. Marshall
J. E. Miller
L. E. Mincey
R. T. McManeus
J. C. McManus
B. L. Scruggs
H. M. Short
R. R. Yarbrough

FINANCE COMMITTEE

H. M. DaVega, *Chairman*
J. B. Efird
W. M. Scruggs
R. T. McManeus
G. T. Carswell
J. C. Shepherd
W. S. Rankin

Church Officers

Moderator	Dr. Luther Little
Church Clerk	A. L. Faul
Assistant Church Clerk	W. J. Smith
Treasurer, Current Expense Fund	J. B. Efird
Treasurer, Mission Fund	B. L. Scruggs
Treasurer, Interest and Sinking Fund	G. T. Carswell

TRUSTEES

J. A. Yarbrough
C. A. Duckworth
J. B. Efird
A. V. Harrill
B. L. Scruggs

BIBLE SCHOOL OFFICERS

GENERAL OFFICERS

General Superintendent	S. D. Bagwell
General Secretary	Voris Brookshire
General Treasurer	T. Edward Helms

DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS

Adult Department M. E. Lake
Young People's Department T. P. Williamson
Intermediate Department E. C. Lovell, and Mamie Little
Junior Department C. A. Duckworth
Primary Department Carl McCraw
Beginner Department Mrs. B. C. Brasington
Cradle Roll Department Mrs. T. H. Williams
Extension Department W. L. Stacks

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY GENERAL OFFICERS

President Mrs. H. M. Short
Vice-President Mrs. Cooper Taylor
Vice-President Mrs. W. E. M. Phillips
Secretary Mrs. W. H. Harvey
Treasurer Mrs. G. C. Morris
Pianist Mrs. Guy T. Carswell
Chorister Mrs. W. D. Sloan
Leader of Sunbeam Band Mrs. W. R. Caudell
Leader of Girl's Auxiliary Mrs. M. E. Lake

B. T. U. GENERAL OFFICERS

General Director P. C. Rodwell
Secretary Walter Helms
Pianist Mrs. P. C. Rodwell
Chorister Rosebud March
President, B.A.U. R. L. Sutton
President, Senior No. 1 L. Deck Taylor
President, Loyalty D. A. Dixon
Leader, B.I.W. Marie Roberts
Leader, Conquerers Sue Edwards
Leader, Stars Mrs. A. V. Blankenship
Leader, Live Wires Louise Helms

BROTHERHOOD GENERAL OFFICERS

President J. C. Fletcher
Vice-President W. R. Boyd
Secretary W. D. Sloan

JANITOR, ROBERT FARRAR
(1908-1937)

MAID, IDA GADDY
(1925-1937)

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